

~~TOP SECRET/SENSITIVE/EXCLUSIVELY EYES ONLY~~

SIT TO 53

JULY 7, 1971

PO: 8 19 5 10 11

ON-FILE NSC RELEASE
INSTRUCTIONS APPLY

UPON RECEIPT DELIVER TO WINSTON LORD OR HENRY A.

KISSINGER REGARDLESS OF HOUR - URGENT

FOR: HENRY A. KISSINGER FROM: GENERAL HAIG

1. We have just learned that James Reston of New York Times and wife scheduled to be in Peking departing Hong Kong on 8 July local time. Reportedly visit scheduled for 9 through 13 July. He has reportedly requested interviews with Mao, Chou and Lin, and is expected to see at least Chou. This is suspicious turn of events which could add to associated risks. Will wait word from you before taking action here. However, you may wish upon arrival at next stop to get urgent message to hosts with respect to these risks and the need to either defer visit or provide you with necessary assurances.

2. Leader is aware of change in venue for visit and agrees completely with necessity for you to acquiesce in desires of hosts based on their assessment even though it will add to bureaucratic problem here. He is personally enthusiastic about change since it corresponds nicely with overall setting resulting from messenger's response.

3. Leader asked me to again emphasize to you that you make clear to hosts essentiality that no other political personalities be authorized to visit target area prior to final round. He also wishes you to inform hosts that final round party would include himself, you and other logical candidate. (FYI: adding that this is essential for bureaucratic purposes which would be clear to you.)

MORI/CDF
C05147531